

Connecting for Conservation

NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are charged with protecting threatened and endangered species and marine mammals by U.S. law. International treaties also protect most of these same species. In our global ocean, several of these species move freely across international boundaries.

NOAA needs your help to protect shared marine species and the vital ecosystems they depend upon. We are committed to learning from and connecting with effective conservation measures across boundaries, to maximize the benefit to the species, their ecosystems, and our oceans.

MPAs safeguard important places that provide vital ecosystem functions, like habitat needed by protected species at different life stages. Like we do, marine species need places to rest, eat, and reproduce. Coordination of MPAs across boundaries will maximize the conservation benefit of these critical tools.

Help us Connect for Conservation

Please help us identify important transboundary species and valuable sites that need protection. Work with us to identify best management practices to maximize the conservation value of our joint efforts.

PTP is a program that can help us further our goals to protect important places and species for our shared living marine resources and ecosystem.

For more information, please visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/ptp.html.

To get involved in a partnership, submit suggestions, or make specific inquiries, please e-mail nmfs.ptp@noaa.gov.



PARTNERSHIPS for TRANSBOUNDARY PROTECTION

Our purpose: to build collaborative international partnerships and conserve protected species by linking and aligning objectives of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within and beyond U.S. waters. Partnership examples include Sister Sanctuaries and MPA Networks.



Partnerships for Transboundary Protection (PTP) is a program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which is a Federal agency in the United States of America.

Focusing on the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)

The Wider Caribbean Region includes the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea, and parts of the Atlantic Ocean. There are 28 nations represented in the region and many transboundary species moving among jurisdictions.

Transboundary Species Currently Protected under U.S. Laws

- 32 marine mammals (6 are endangered)
- 3 fish (2 endangered & 1 threatened elasmobranchs)
- 6 sea turtles (4 endangered & 2 threatened)
- 7 invertebrates (all threatened corals)
- Several other species are under consideration for protection, such as Nassau grouper

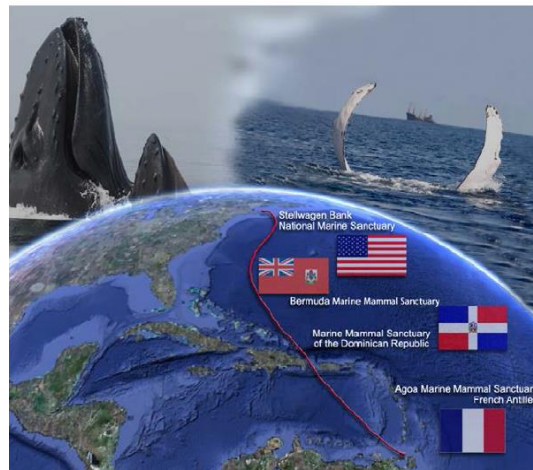


Elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*)
NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Sister Sanctuaries

Sister Sanctuary agreements build the capacity of MPAs in different countries to achieve their goals, including the conservation of particular species. For example, these four MPAs work together to protect North Atlantic humpback whales throughout their migration corridor:

- NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary protects their feeding grounds
- Bermuda Marine Mammal Sanctuary protects part of their migratory corridor
- Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic protects their breeding grounds
- Agoa Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the French Antilles protects feeding, breeding, and migration areas



MPA Networks

Ecology-focused MPA networks maintain ecosystem functions and ecological connectivity and should:

- Connect ecologically and biologically significant habitats
- Represent diverse ecosystems
- Benefit species exchanges, including larval transport
- Have the size, variety, and protections needed to ensure ecosystem resiliency

Institutional networks facilitate sharing information, experiences, and resources among MPA practitioners.

Some Wider Caribbean Region examples:

- IGOMMPAN (International Gulf of Mexico MPA Network)
- MMPA (Marine Mammal Protected Areas) Network for the WCR
- CAMPAM (Caribbean MPA Management) Network and Forum